



**Billing Code 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2016–0148; FXIA16710900000–178–FF09A30000]**

**Endangered Species; Marine Mammals; Receipt of Applications for Permit**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of applications for permit.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on the following applications to conduct certain activities with endangered species, marine mammals, or both. With some exceptions, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibit activities with listed species unless Federal authorization is acquired that allows such activities.

**DATES:** We must receive comments or requests for documents on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. We must receive requests for marine mammal permit public hearings, in writing, at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** *Submitting Comments:* You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on **Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2016–0148**.
- *U.S. mail or hand-delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: **Docket No. FWS–HQ–IA–2016–0148**; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS:

BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

When submitting comments, please indicate the **name of the applicant and the PRT#** you are commenting on. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the **Public Comments** section below for more information).

*Viewing Comments:* Comments and materials we receive will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803; telephone 703–358–2095.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Tapia, (703) 358-2104 (telephone); (703) 358-2281 (fax); DMAFR@fws.gov (email).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Public Comment Procedures**

#### **A. How Do I Request Copies of Applications or Comment on Submitted Applications?**

Send your request for copies of applications or comments and materials concerning any of the applications to the contact listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please include the **Federal Register** notice publication date, the PRT-number, and the name of the applicant in your request or submission. We will not consider requests or comments sent to an email or address not listed under **ADDRESSES**. If you provide an email address in your request for copies of applications, we will attempt to respond to your request electronically.

Please make your requests or comments as specific as possible. Please confine your comments to issues for which we seek comments in this notice, and explain the basis for your comments. Include sufficient information with your comments to allow us to authenticate any scientific or commercial data you include.

The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are: (1) Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and (2) Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations. We will not consider or include in our administrative record comments we receive after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

#### B. May I Review Comments Submitted by Others?

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the street address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The public may review documents and other information applicants have sent in support of the application unless our allowing viewing would violate the Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

## II. Background

To help us carry out our conservation responsibilities for affected species, and in consideration of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), along with Executive Order 13576, “Delivering an Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government,” and the President’s Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies of January 21, 2009 - Transparency and Open Government (74 FR 4685; January 26, 2009), which call on all Federal agencies to promote openness and transparency in Government by disclosing information to the public, we invite public comment on these permit applications before final action is taken. Under the MMPA, you may request a hearing on any MMPA application received. If you request a hearing, give specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate. The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Service Director.

### III. Permit Applications

#### A. Endangered Species

**Applicant: NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, FL; PRT-045532**

The applicant requests reissuance of their permit to import and/or introduce from the sea biological samples collected on the high seas and on land, from wild animals opportunistically salvaged and incidentally captured, and captive-held animals of loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp’s ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and leatherback seas turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) for the purpose of scientific research. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

**Applicant: Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, NY; PRT-06738C**

The applicant requests a permit to conduct interstate transport for one captive-bred Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 1-year period.

**Applicant: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA; PRT-07990C**

The applicant requests a permit to export and reimport nonliving museum specimens of endangered and threatened species previously accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

B. Endangered Marine Mammals and Marine Mammals

**Applicant: North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, Barrow, AK; PRT-80164B**

The applicant requests a permit to conduct hair snare population surveys of wild polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) and to opportunistically collect samples from beach-cast carcasses and subsistence-harvested wild polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) and Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*) for purposes of scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Concurrent with publishing this notice in the **Federal Register**, we are forwarding copies of the above applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

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**Brenda Tapia,**  
**Program Analyst/Data Administrator,**  
**Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.**

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